

Mayor Schaumburg called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Flag Salute.

Roll Call: Present – De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Attorney, Lorraine Staples, attended in the absence of Richard Cushing, Esq.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mayor Schaumburg read the following statement: “Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided, indicating the time and place of the meeting and the proposed agenda, which notice was posted, made available to newspapers, and filed with the Clerk of the Town of Clinton in accordance with Section 3(d) of Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Shea, to approve the minutes of November 1, 2007 as submitted.

Vote all ayes
3 Abstentions (De Cleene, Insel, Ragozine)
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Clerk’s Account, Cat & Dog Licensing Accounts, Construction Control/Inspection Report Fire Official Report, Police Report, Sewer Collector’s Report, Tax Collector’s Report, Water Collector’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, Wastewater Treatment Plant’s Superintendent’s Report, Water Superintendent’s Report.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Bahto, 47 Alexandra Way, asked if a re-valuation is being done again this year in the Alton Place section of Town? Mayor Schaumburg explained that 25% of the Town is completed every year. Currently, the Clinton Knolls area of Town is being completed. Mayor Schaumburg asked Kathy Olsen to attempt to get an answer and respond to Mr. Bahto’s request.

Walter Hetzel, Main Street, on behalf of the Clinton Guild, thanked the Department of Public Works, the Police Department and the Fire Department, for all their help in making the 2007 Christmas Parade the best ever! Mayor Schaumburg also thanked the Guild for all their planning for the parade and echoed Mr. Hetzel’s praises.

Lou Tranquilli, 35 Leigh Street and 11 Rupells Road, approached a shop on Leigh Street that displays a neon sign. Mr. Tranquilli obtained the dimensions for Council to consider as a highly

effective, scripted sign which is less offensive and acts as a lamp. The sign is 9 ¾ long and 2 ½ “ tall. Mayor Schaumburg asked that the dimensions be forwarded to Beth McManus, Town Planner. The Mayor also suggested that Mr. Tranquilli contact Ms. McManus directly if he had any questions or other suggestions. An amended Sign Ordinance is expected to be introduced in January or February.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

1. Mayor Schaumburg thanked Pat Goehe for attending the Shade Tree Conference and applying for a Green Communities Grant in the amount of \$3,000.
2. Mr. Cutter asked Mayor Schaumburg to report that recycling and garbage collection will be December 26, 2007, the day following Christmas.
3. Milling and paving will begin tomorrow morning, Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 a.m. on Hillside Drive. All three roads, Hillside, Quarry Ridge and Spruce Run Roads will be completed this winter. Chief Mathies said there will be no overnight parking enforcement in the Knolls until the road project is done.
4. Mayor Schaumburg attended the Regional Plan Association meeting held jointly with the Highlands Council. Mayor Schaumburg was asked to speak on behalf of the Town as the first Town to go through the process with the Regional Plan Association. The Association assisted and guided the Town in hosting the Community Design Vision Study. The process also helped in making changes in the Master Plan, which is almost ready to be adopted. Mayor Schaumburg also met last week with Highlands Executive Director Eileen Swan and was informed that a grant package is available to apply for funds to conduct a Transfer of Development Rights – TDR – study and that the Town of Clinton may be a good subject as a case study town due to not being totally in a preservation area.
5. Mayor Schaumburg commented on the fabulous parade, the work of the Department of Public Works men, the Police Department and to Councilman De Cleene, for leading the parade as the Town crier. Mr. Harrison also commented on how clean the Town was due to DPW, no trace of trash that evening or the following day. Mayor Schaumburg received many compliments.

BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSION - FIELD/FACILITY USAGE FEES

Dan Mahoney, long time member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, discussed with the Finance Officer, Kathy Olsen, the need to establish field and facility usage fees. After contacting several other towns, Mr. Mahoney submitted a fee schedule. Mayor Schaumburg questioned Counsel as to Council giving the approval to Mr. Mahoney authorizing him to send letters to potential teams for the Spring and Summer seasons. The letters will notify the teams of the fees to be imposed subsequent to adopting a fee schedule and passing an Ordinance. Attorney Staples assured Council they may grant authorization. Mr. Mahoney requested stationary from the Town to proceed and hereby notifying teams that this is being done through the Town. A motion was made by Mr. De Cleene, seconded by Mr. Shea, authorizing Mr. Mahoney to send letters to potential teams.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #125-07 – PARIS GRANT

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #125-07 supporting the participation in the PARIS grant program.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #126-07 – OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to adopt Resolution #126-07 to request from the Hunterdon County Board of Freeholders that the Town's share in the amount of \$17,784.42 be reserved for future use.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes)

RESOLUTION #127-07 – PARIS GRANT PROGRAM

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #127-07 urging the Legislature and Governor Corzine to restore full funding for County and Municipal PARIS grants.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE

1. A memo received from Planning Board Chairman Frank Gallagher stressing the Planning Board's opposition to the proposed sign ordinance. Mayor and Council discussed the procedure that will be taken when the amended sign ordinance is re-visited. The Planning Board requested Council to consider and recommend the Planning Board finalize a new sign ordinance and does not feel that any creation of a new sign ordinance should be handled by a Board of Adjustment Subcommittee. Mayor Schaumburg said that significant changes are going to be made to the current ordinance and that Planning Board should look at the ordinance and review it before council introduces it.
The process taken from the beginning was an ordinance being sent to the Planning Board with no neon in it and the Board approved it. A new sub sign committee was formed and re-worked the ordinance. Neon was then added and the ordinance was given to Council. Planning Board has always been opposed to neon signs. However, the newly formed Sub Sign Committee, along with merchants, worked on a new ordinance that added neon to it. That ordinance was then given to the Council and subsequently denied on second reading, neon being a factor in the denial. Since the Council meeting of November 27, 2007 when the Ordinance failed on second reading, Beth McManus, Town Planner, began gathering comments and material to amend the ordinance. Upon redrafting the ordinance, the Planning Board will be first to review and pass along to the Council any recommendations to consider. Mrs. Insel asked if the sub sign committee will be at the Planning Board meeting when they receive the ordinance, Mayor Schaumburg stated it is an open meeting and all would be welcome to attend. It was suggested that Planning Board open dialogue with the sub sign committee and the merchants informing them of the impending discussion date.
2. New Jersey Business & Industry Association seeking nominations for the 2008 New Good Neighbor Awards.

3. 2008 New Jersey Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Scholarship application, available in the clerk's office.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL & TOWN OFFICIALS

Kathy Olsen, CFO

1. Attended Budget Seminar and explained that the State is dealing with the tax levy cap and will not be ready until January. Ms. Olsen suggested Budget meetings begin in February.

Councilman Ragozine

1. The Recreation Commission once discussed the possibility of having a Winter Festival and include the burning of Christmas trees. This event will not take place this year but possibly next year. Mr. De Cleene spoke of how the event took place on the ice on the river years ago. Mr. Ragozine said this is a legal event and a DEP permit may be obtained quickly, per Scott Wintermute.

Councilman De Cleene

1. Rescue Squad – reported 110 calls for the month of November and presented the slate of 2008 officers.
Melinda Stortz, President
Rose Milligan, Treasurer
Laura Thin, Secretary
Mike Gallis, Assistant Chief
2. Emergency Services Foundation received IRS approval for a raffle license to hold a power ball! Next the Foundation will have to apply to the State. Next Foundation meeting December 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Insel

1. Historic Commission – next meeting is Wednesday night, December 19, 2007 at 7:00 pm. Awards will be presented to businesses that have restored their buildings.
2. Planning Board – next meeting January 2, 2008.
3. Smart Growth – meeting with the Highlands Council on January 9, 2008.

Councilman Shea

1. Clinton Guild – Candlelight Night, December 13, from dusk to 9:00 p.m.
Santa on Main, December 16 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Submitted prices on street banners for Buildings & Grounds to consider at budget time.
2. Recreation Commission – Community Center event approval and notification process is being distributed as requested.

Councilman Harrison

1. Clinton Fire Department reported 250 calls last year, averaging 20 per month and no injuries.
2. At a recent Planning Board meeting, Mr. Harrison distributed information obtained from the League of Municipalities Convention entitled "Planning for an Aging Population" a challenge the Government is facing. Mr. Harrison asked the Planning Board to consider this information and give the Master Plan attention to this problem.

Mayor Schaumburg

1. Mayor Schaumburg met with representatives from the Clinton Fire Department, Chief Matheis, Attorneys Cushing and Rylak to discuss the parking and are working on negotiations.

APPROVAL OF STANDBY AND OVERTIME

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mrs. Insel, to approve the standby and overtime pay as submitted for November 16, 2007 through November 29, 2007.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #128- 07 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

A motion was made by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Ragozine, to adopt Resolution #128-07, a Transfer of Funds.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes)

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to approve the voucher list attached to these minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes: De Cleene, Harrison, Insel, Pender, Ragozine, Shea, Mayor Schaumburg

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

RESOLUTION #129-07 – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Schaumburg explained that Council would not go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel as listed on the resolution. Council proceeded with the Fair and Open process for the annual appointment list of professionals. Kathy Olsen will review the submittals of professionals and list what they are currently being paid and their new prices. An email will be sent to Mayor and Council for their review. If any Council member has a question or is considering changes, contact Ms. Olsen or the Mayor by December 20, 2007. If no changes are requested, the re-organization agenda will be prepared.

A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. De Cleene, to adopt Resolution #129-07 allowing Council to enter into Executive Session to discuss Litigation at 8:25 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

(A copy of this resolution is attached to these minutes)

A motion was made by Mrs. Insel, seconded by Mr. Harrison, to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular Council meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. De Cleene seconded by Mrs. Insel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Vote all ayes
Motion carried

Cecilia Covino, RMC/CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY MAYOR & COUNCIL

Christine Schaumburg, Mayor